

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:27 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2011 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, Lew,
McCabe, See, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: Commissioner Lefevre

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,
Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

MOTION: Commissioner See moved to grant Commissioner Lefevre an excused absence for the November 17, 2011 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Chairperson McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved for the approval of the September 15, 2011 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lefevre).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. PRESENTATION BY WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (WRD) REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S ROLE AND PROGRAMS TO REPLENISH AND PRESERVE THE LOCAL GROUNDWATER BASINS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed Ted Johnson, Chief Hydrogeologist, Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California.

Chief Hydrogeologist Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation "The Importance of Groundwater in Southern Los Angeles County." He presented an overview of WRD's history, managerial responsibilities and stewardship of the Basins, current groundwater programs, operation of water treatment facilities, and future challenges. He provided information about Los Angeles's population growth, precipitation, and three main surface water sources: California Aqueduct, Colorado River Aqueduct, and Los Angeles Aqueduct. He described the Central and West Coast Basins and groundwater overdraft prior to 1960, noting that half of the Basins is replenished by rainwater and the other half is supplemental water put in by WRD.

He provided a brief history of WRD since its formation in 1959, its service area of 420 square miles and over 400 active production wells, and its role as groundwater manager of the Basins. He stated that the main responsibility of WRD is to replace the overdraft through artificial replenishment and to protect groundwater quality from seawater intrusion. He stated that WRD uses surface imported water and recycled wastewater to fill up the water table, noting the growing use for recycled wastewater for irrigation, industrial applications, and groundwater recharge. He described the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel spreading grounds near Pico Rivera where rainwater is captured and soaks in by gravity.

Mr. Johnson stated that another way to replenish water is through the seawater injection wells drilled in 1952 along the coast. He explained that these barrier wells build up pressure to overcome seawater intrusion and how WRD also replenishes aquifers by injecting mostly highly treated recycled water. He noted that WRD's goal for the future is to use 100% treated wastewater for the barriers without diluting it with drinking water.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry about the life cycle of the barrier wells, he stated that a few of them have aged out but most are doing well and are inspected annually.

Mr. Johnson described the 300 groundwater monitoring test wells at 50 locations that include one at the parking lot of Madrona Marsh. He stated that the wells take water level readings every six hours and that samples are physically taken twice a year. He showed on graphs how the Basins are recovering and noted that the aquifers are healthier, better sustained, and ready for emergency use.

He discussed replenishment water costs as well as costs for projects and programs and explained that WRD levies replenishment assessments on pumping. He provided information about WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) program that invests in projects to reduce or eliminate the need for imported water to replenish groundwater.

Responding to Commissioner McCabe's inquiry, Mr. Johnson described projects under consideration that include raising the water level behind the dam in the Pico

Rivera area and pumping down the water table of the spreading grounds to capture more storm water. He added that it would make a big difference if all the hardscapes were permeable surfaces.

Public Works Director Beste pointed out that Torrance does not pump from those basins and mentioned that last year was the biggest rain capture ever in the Los Angeles Basin because of the spacing of the storms.

Mr. Johnson discussed the saline plume and the challenge that Torrance and other South Bay cities have to keep operating water wells without pumping out salt water. He noted that the concentration of salt is increasing and the plume is moving eastward at approximately 250 feet per year. He stated that WRD is working with a consultant to develop a groundwater basin Master Plan to evaluate the saline plume and future demand, adding that pumping the saltwater and treating it may be the solution.

In response to Commissioner McCabe's inquiry, he stated that hydrogen peroxide is added for a particular contaminant that still exists after reverse osmosis.

At Chairperson McGee's request, Mr. Johnson discussed ongoing litigation that is primarily over groundwater storage and a Proposition 218 process lawsuit.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright distributed his October and November reports to Mayor Scotto and Council Members regarding MWD activities. He provided background and presented an update on MWD's current Water Supply Conditions and Combined Reservoir Storage. He reported that Lake Oroville is basically full and is kept at 82% capacity to prevent flood control releases. He stated that there is so much water that last week MWD voted to sell surplus water at a discounted rate to member agencies to replenish their groundwater basins or reservoirs.

Referring to the Colorado River supply, he stated that a year ago Lake Mead almost reached a shortage situation but is now 40 feet higher in elevation, adding that it can go up 97 more feet before it is considered full. He noted that each foot in Lake Mead generates \$100,000 worth of power and that MWD receives about 50%. He noted that Lake Powell and Lake Mead are huge reservoirs and were built in case of a 30 year drought. He stated that MWD has 300,000 acre-feet of water stored in Lake Mead and now Mexico is expressing interest in storing water in it also. He mentioned that they are putting snow-generating machines in the Grand Mesa area east of Grand Junction, Colorado.

9. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the November 1, 2011 West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Master announced that water pumped from West Coast Basin in September 2011 was the same as September 2010 and there was a 3.5% decrease in total groundwater production as compared to the same time period last year. He stated that the Montrose Chemical Corporation purchased 1.2 acre-feet of water rights from Carson Harbor Mobil Home Park and this allows them to file for a non-consumptive use permit for groundwater remediation at their Superfund site.

He reported that West Basin Municipal Water District is moving forward with the Phase V expansion of the Edward C. Little Reclamation Facility and are currently in the design phase, with completion expected in July 2012. He stated that they held a

dedication ceremony to name their Carson headquarters and reported that they are continuing with amended litigation with San Diego County Water Authority against the MWD rate structure.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that WRD has been designated to be the lead agency in the West Coast Basin regarding SBx7-6 legislation, that completion of the Van Der Lans Recycling Facility expansion is projected for May 2012, and that they were successful in putting 180,000 acre feet back into the ground for replenishment. He stated that the West Basin Water Association attended the WRD State of the District address on October 20, 2011.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for October 2011 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production in October 2011 was 17% higher than October 2010 and that there were three water main breaks. He stated that the Goldsworthy Desalter is operating well and is producing approximately 140 acre-feet per month. Referring to Well #9, he stated that it is exceeding expectations and has produced over 1,500 acre-feet in eight months.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that the membrane filters will be replaced within the next six months and the plant will need to shut down for two weeks.

11. ORALS

11A. Commissioner Deemer distributed a November 8, 2011 Los Angeles Times article "Authors of Stories Promoting Water District Can't be Found."

11B. Referring to Commissioner McCabe suggestion to invite a Sierra Club representative to a future Commission meeting, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that he has been unsuccessful in making a contact but will continue trying.

11C. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich discussed plans for a work day event at West High School on December 3, 2011 to mulch, kill weeds, put in contours, and install California friendly landscape.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:56 p.m., Commissioner McCabe moved to adjourn the meeting to December 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Submitted January 19, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
